

## *Envirothon Teams Place 3<sup>rd</sup> in Area Competition*

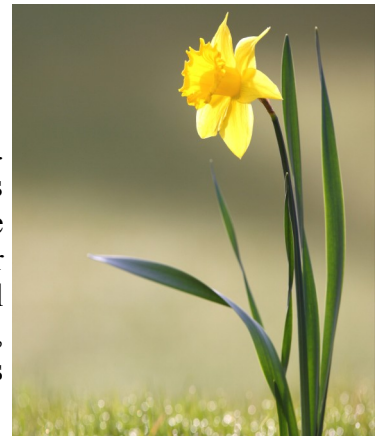
You may have seen them knee-deep in a stream searching for macro-invertebrates. Maybe they were measuring trees with a Biltmore stick, identifying animal tracks along a trail or kneading a handful of mud to study soil texture. Members of the Creation Explorers 4-H Club have been all over Stanly County this school year learning about the environment. Their work paid off when both the middle school and high school teams placed third in the Southern Piedmont Envirothon. The SPE, sponsored by the twelve Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Area VIII, was held March 17 and 18 at Catawba College in Salisbury.

The all-day competition, held outside the school's Center for the Environment, included presentations related to aquatics, forestry, soil, wildlife and current environmental issues and a test on each of those five subject areas. Both the Stanly County teams, sponsored by the Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District, will advance to the North Carolina State Envirothon on April 24 and 25 at Cedarock Park.

"We couldn't be more pleased with all that these students learned this year, thanks in a large part to local professionals — from wildlife officers and forest rangers to soil specialists and biologists who took their time to work with us and share their expertise," said Luanne Williams, who helps advise the club along with Felicia Martin, Susanne Burns and Angie Stiller. "We studied at the Agri-Civic Center, at Morrow Mountain State Park, Badin Lake, Camp Barnhardt and the quarry at Vulcan Materials to name a few locations. We especially appreciate Stanly Soil and Water Conservation for their support."

Members of the Middle School team and their specialty areas: Amelia Martin, aquatics; Amber Stiller, forestry; Evan DiDio, soil; Ethan Wilkins, wildlife; Dayli Williams, current environmental issues; and Robbie Dales, alternate. This team went on to place 6th in the State competition at Cedarock Park in Burlington on April 24-25.

High school team and specialty areas: Seth Stiller, aquatics; Thomas Maness, forestry; Lexie Burns, soil; Lydia Dales, wildlife; and Jaclyn Stiller, current environmental issues.



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Luanne Williams,  
Middle School Envirothon Advisor

